

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 27 and 46-51 as follows. Please cancel claims 32-45, 55-67, 74 and 75 without prejudice to continued prosecution. Please add new claim 76 as follows. The claims and their status are shown below.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of making a feed additive or a feedstock comprising:  
providing corn steep-water having a solids content of from about 8% to about 50% on a dry weight basis;

fermenting the steep-water in the presence of at least one microbe to generate fermented steep-water, wherein said microbe is yeast, wherein said fermenting is under conditions that generate an enhanced steep-water having at least about 70% yeast on a microbial dry weight basis,

drying the fermented steep-water to generate an enhanced steep-water having a solids content of from about 30% to about 90% on a dry weight basis, thereby making said feed additive or said feedstock.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the corn steep-water is a low phosphorous steep-water.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the low phosphorous steep-water is a low phytate steep-water.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the at least one microbe is endogenous to the steep-water.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the at least one microbe is exogenous to the steep-water.

32-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 [[45]] wherein said yeast is selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Candida utilis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, and *Torulaspora delbrueckii*.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 [[45]] wherein the fermenting is performed at a temperature of from about 25°C to about 45°C under aerobic conditions.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 [[45]] wherein the fermenting is performed at a temperature of at least about 28°C for at least about 24 hours.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 [[45]] wherein the fermented steep-water comprises at least 7 g acetate per L of fermented steep-water.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 [[45]] wherein the fermented or enhanced steep-water comprises at least about 1  $\mu$ g biotin per g of steep-water solids.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 [[45]] further comprising lysing, at least partially, said at least one yeast in the fermented or enhanced steep-water to generate a yeast extract.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein said lysing comprises incubating the fermented or enhanced steep-water at a pH of from about 4.7 to about 5.2 and a temperature of from about 42°C to about 48°C.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein at least some of said lysing is autolysing by said at least one yeast.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 wherein the autolysing is performed under aerobic conditions at a pH of about 5.0 and a temperature of about 45°C.

55-67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the enhanced steep-water has a solids content of from about 40% to about 80% on a dry weight basis.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the enhanced steep-water has a solids content of from about 50% to about 70% on a dry weight basis.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the enhanced steep-water has a solids content of from about 60% to about 75% on a dry weight basis.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising removing, at least partially, the at least one microbe from the fermented or enhanced steep-water.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71 further comprising mixing the removed at least one microbe with the feed additive or feedstock.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising mixing the feed additive or feedstock with a feedstuff to generate an animal feed having a moisture content of at least about 12% by weight.

74-75. (Canceled)

Applicant : Alison M. Jones et al.  
Serial No. : 10/565,894  
Filed : January 24, 2006  
Page : 4 of 5

Attorney's Docket No.: 18780-  
008US1 / CGL03/0260US01

76. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the corn steep water has a solids content of from about 8% to about 12% on a dry weight basis.